

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1695

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SUBJECT: TERRORISM

REF: A. MADRID 0141, B. MADRID 1189

1. DURING LUNCH WITH THE CHARGE, THE SUB SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JOSE MIGUEL ORTI BORDAS NOTED THAT THE LIBERATION OF ORIOL AND VILLAESCUSA HAD TAKEN A GREAT WEIGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S SHOULDERS AND HAD FORTIFIED INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA'S POSITION, BUT REMINDED US THE GRAPO PROBLEM WASN'T OVER.

--HE NOTED THE COMMUNIQUE SENT TO MADRID DAILY "INFORMACIONES", IN WHICH PURPORTED GRAPO ELEMENTS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE THEFT FROM AMINING OPERATION IN THE PROVINCE OF LEON OF PERHAPS HALF A TON A GOMA-2 EXPLOSIVE, 1000 DENONATORS AND MISCELLANEOUS OTHER ITEMS. THE COMMUNIQUE COLCLUDED WITH A VAGUE THREAT TO EMPLOY THESE EXPLOSIVES.

-- THREE MAJOR GRAPO FIGURES INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATIONS INCLUDING THE ONE TIME JOURNALIST AND GRAPO IDEOLOGUE PIA MOA WERE STILL AT LARGE. THOUGH THEY HAD CAPTURED THE OPERATIONAL LEADER OF THE GRAPO (ENRIQUE CONFIDENTIAL

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CERDAN) THE TOP LEADER HAD BEEN AND REMAINS OUTSIDE SPAIN, WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. HE GOES BY THE NAME OF COMDRADE ARENAS.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GOS HAD STILL NOT COME UP WITH SOLID LEADS ON THE KILLINGS OF THE FIVE COMMUNIST LAWYERS IN ATOCHA. THEY BELIEVED IT TO BE THE WORK OF HIRED

GUNMEN, PROBABLY SPANISH, BECAUSE OF THE ACCENTS WITH WHICH THEY SPOKE. THE INVESTIGATIONS HINTED THAT A TRANSPORTATION COMPANY WHICH WAS ON STRIKE AT THE TIME OF THE KILLINGS MIGHT HAVE CONTRACTED THE HIRING, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING SURE, THE GOS HAD NOT DISCARDED EVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN EXTREME LEFTIST GROUP MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE KILLINGS (COMMENT : ABSENT HARD EVIDENCE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE BUT THIS SEEMS AS UNLIKELY AS THE IDEA STILL FASHIONABLE IN LEFTISTS CIRCLES. THAT THE GRAPO WAS REALLY AND EXTREME RIGHT GROUP DRESSED IN LEFTIST CLOTHING.)

3. THE POLICIA ARMADA AND GUARDIA CIVIL MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST WORKING CONDITIONS (REFTEL) HAD BEEN RELEASED EXCEPT FOR A HANDFUL OF ORGANIZERS AND THOSE WHO PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED A CIVIL GUARD GENERAL. HE INSISTED THAT THE ORGANIZERS WERE A SMALL PCE LINKED CELL, WHICH HAD PARTICULARLY INFILTRATED THE CIVIL GUARD. THEY TOOK ADVANTAGES OF GENUINE GRIEVANCES TO GET NUMBERS OF POLICE TO GO ALONG WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION OF THE ORGANIZERS. BUT SAID IT WAS A GOOD THING THE DEMONSTRATION HAD OCCURRED, SINCE IT EXPOSED THE GROUP AND MOREOVER HAD SPURRED EFFORT TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, THE KEY TO A RESPONSIBLE POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

4. IN RELATED MATTERS, ORTI BORDAS REITERATED HIS CONCERN AT THE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE JUDICIARY OF LEFTIST LAWYERS, VITING THE JUSTICIA DEMOCRATICAN A CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGAL GROUP INFILTRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTANCE FROM THE LATER YEARS OF THE FRANCO REGIME. IN ADDITION HE SAID THE JUDICIARY IN GENERAL WAS SOFT ON POTENTIAL TERRORISTS SINCE THEY WERE TREATING MEMBERS OF THE PCE RECONSTITUTED THE PARENT ORGANIZATION OF GRAPO AS SIMPLY PEOPLE CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION RELEASING THEM AFTER THEY HAD BEEN QUESTIONED IN EFFECT, HE ARGUED FOR A SYSTEM OF PREVENTIVE DETENTION IN SUCH CASES.

5. COMMENT: CURIOUSLY, WE HAVE HEARD PRIVATE DENIALS FROM OTHER REPUTABLE GOS FIGURES THAT THERE WAS ANY LEFTISTS INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLICE DEMONSTRATION. NONETHERLESSM WE CONCLUDE THAT ORTI BORDAS PROBABLY REFLECTS THE INTERIOR GOS PERCEPTION OF THE MATTER. SOMETHING THE OTHERS DO NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT. HE TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE ARREST OF "GUERRILLAS OF CHRIST THE KING" LEADER SANCHEZ COVISA WAS LESS IMPORTANT THAN BALLYHOODED THE PRESS, SINCE SANCHEZ COVISA WAS ALLEGEDLY WHOSE OWN FAMILY WISHED HIM IN JAIL

AND OUT THE HARMS WAYS. EVEN THE ARRESTED ITALIAN RIGHTISTS, WHO
WERE CERTAINLY DANGEROUS IN ITALY HAD APPARENTLY USED
MADRID AS A SAFE HAVEN RATHER THAN A TARGET FOR THEIR
PARTICULAR BRAND OF VIOLENCE.EATON

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